

conditions, circumstances and situation of our people as the Parliament are of theirs. (From an address to Governor Dunmore of Virginia, 1775. F. I., 456.)

INDEPENDENCE.—I suppose they, the Virginia Convention, will tell us what to say on the subject of independence, but hope respect will be expressed to the right of opinion in other colonies who may happen to differ from them. When at home I took great pains to inquire into the sentiments of the people on that head. In the upper counties I think I may safely say nine out of ten are for it. (To Thomas Nelson, 1776. F. II., 3.)

INDEPENDENCE.—This Congress, bound by the voice of their constituents, which coincides with their own sentiments, have no power to enter into conference or to receive any propositions upon the subject of peace which *do* not as a preliminary acknowledge these States to be sovereign and independent; and whenever this shall have been authoritatively admitted on the part of Great Britain, they shall at all times and with that earnestness which the love of peace and justice inspires, be ready to enter into conference or treaty for the purpose of stopping the effusion of so much kindred blood. (From a resolution offered in Congress, 1776. F. II., 90.)

INDEPENDENCE.—If any doubt has arisen as to me, my country will have my political creed in the form of a Declaration, &c., which I was lately directed to draw. This will give decisive proof that my own sentiment concurred with the vote they instructed me to give. (To William Flemming, July 1, 1776. F. II., 41.)

INDEPENDENCE, DECLARATION OF.—(From the facsimile of Jefferson's own draft now in the State Department. The parts in italics were stricken out by Congress.)

*A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled.*

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the